

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SOVIET PRESS: SEPTEMBER 17

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF SOVIET PRESS:

-- U.S. COVERAGE IS LIGHT, WITH PRAVDA FAIRLY OBJECTIVE AND INFORMATIVE AND KZ CRITICAL OF U.S. DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS.

-- ON AFRICA AND SECRETARY'S TRIP CRITICISM LEVEL IS SLIGHTLY INCREASED IN COMPARISON TO THIS WEEK'S RELATIVE LULL. PRAVDA HAS ONLY TASS ROUNDUP ON CONTINUED UNREST AROUND SOUTHERN AFRICA. IZVESTIYA, HOWEVER, CARRIES RATHER SHARP PIECE BY TASS CORRESPONDENT S. KULIK IN MAPUTO ON U.S. INTEREST IN FORESTALLING LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN RHODESIA, WHILE KZ HAS A TASS DAR ES SALAAM ARTICLE ALONG SAME LINES. BOTH ARTICLES DISCUSS U.S.-BRITISH PLAN TO SUBSIDIZE PROSPECTIVE WHITE MINORITY LOSSES IN RHODESIA. KZ DESCRIBES THIS AS A "PROMISE TO INSURE FINANCIAL GUARANTEES TO THE WHITE SETTLERS WITH GOAL OF PRESERVING THEIR PRIVILEGES."

-- PRAVDA'S SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, V. YERMAKOV, REPORTS FROM LISBON THAT AGREEMENT REACHED TO SEND PORTUGUESE TROOPS TO FRG AND TO INTEGRATE THEM INTO CANADIAN NATO BRIGADE THERE. CITING POLITICAL OBSERVERS AND PORTUGUESE PRESS, YERMAKOV NOTES THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN REACTIVATING PORTUGUESE TIES WITH NATO AND THAT THIS IS JUST FIRST OF SERIES OF SUCH AGREEMENTS AS GOP TAKES "MORE ACTIVE PART IN NATO'S GROUND OPERATIONS."

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-- PRAVDA AND KZ REPLAY ADN STORY WHICH KNOCKS CDU:CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE FOR RECENT THREATS REGARDING LONG TERM CREDITS TO GDR. KOHL IS A MAN WHO "DOES NOT REALIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS OWN ACTIONS," SAYS ADN. ANY ATTEMPT BY KOHL TO UNDO EXISTING GDR-FRG AGREEMENTS WILL BRING A QUICK GDR RESPONSE, ADN WARNS, SINCE GDR POSSESSES MEANS TO RESPOND TO ANY BREAK OF THE AGREEMENTS.

-- IZVESTIYA ARTICLE BY L. STEPANOV, TITLED "RETORT," IS ON SELF-IMMOLATION OF GDR PASTOR, BURESEWITZ. IT ATTEMPTS TO CAST DOUBT ON PASTOR'S PREVIOUS SANITY AND PUTS WESTERN PUBLICITY ON EVENT IN FRAMEWORK OF ANTI-GDR CAMPAIGN WAGED BY CERTAIN CIRCLES IN FRG ON EVE OF BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS.

-- MIDDLE EAST COVERAGE CONTINUES LIGHT. PRAVDA AND KZ RUN TASS BEIRUT ARTICLE CRITICIZING RECENT CABINET SHUFFLE BY LEBANESE PRESIDENT FRANJIYEH. PRAVDA HAS TASS DAMASCUS ARTICLE BASED ON EDITORIAL IN CPY SYRIA ORGAN "NIDAL ASH-SHAAB" (PHONETIC) WHICH REPORTEDLY ACCUSED LEBANESE RIGHTIST FORCES OF ATTEMPTING TO TURN LEBANON INTO A "BASE OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM." ARTICLE CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING UNITY OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT AND SYRIA, BUT PRAVDA REPLAY SAYS NOTHING OF SYRIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL.

-- IZVESTIYA'S INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY, B. A. TER-GRI'GORYAN, DENOUNCES THE U.S. PLAN TO VETO HANOI'S UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. THE ITEM DESCRIBES THE "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES' SUPPORT FOR THE SRV, CITES PORTIONS OF THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT, AND CLAIMS THAT THE U.S. POSITION IS ILLOGICAL. CITING THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE ARTICLE CHARGES THAT THE U.S. DECISION DERIVES FROM ELECTORAL CONSIDERATIONS.

-- PRAVDA AND KZ CARRY A TASS ITEM DRAWING ON THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER AKAHOATA TO CHARGE THAT JAPAN HAS HANDLED THE "FORCES LANDING OF THE SOVIET PLANE" IN A MANNER WHICH IS "UNFRIENDLY" TO THE SOVIET UNION AND HELPFUL TO THE U.S.

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-- PRAVDA FRONTPAGES THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MONGOLIAN PARTY CHIEF TSEDENBAL WAS AWARDED THE ORDER OF LENIN, WITH BREZHNEV'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FEATURED.

-- KZ CARRIES A TASS MANILA ITEM ALLEGING THAT A RECENT SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES' OWN AFFAIRS BY WARNING ABOUT MANILA'S ECONOMIC TIES WITH LDCS. THE ITEM LINKS THIS WITH "THE RECENT U.S. ATTEMPT" TO LINK EARTHQUAKE RELIEF WITH BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. U.S. COVERAGE IS SPOTTY.

-- LEAD ITEM IS PART 2 OF PRAVDA SERIES BY S. VISHNEVSKIY BASED ON HIS PARTICIPATION IN STATE DEPARTMENT STUDY TRIP

OF U.S. VISHNEVSKIY DEVOTES MOST OF HIS ATTENTION
TO LACK OF CONFIDENCE OF AMERICANS IN GOVERNMENT, PESSIMISTIC
MOOD OF ACADEMICS AND OTHERS, AND PREVALENCE OF INWARD LOOKING
ESCAPISM REFLECTED BY PIRSIG'S BOOK "ZEN AND ART OF MOTORCYCLE
MAINTENANCE." VISHNEVSKIY, CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT BENEATH
THIS GLOOMY SURFACE, U.S. CLASS STRUGGLE POT IS BUBBLING AWAY AS
EXEMPLIFIED BY WIDESPREAD STRIKES.

-- BOTH PRAVDA AND KZ REPORT PRESIDENT'S ANN ARBOR SPEECH
CITING U.S. PASSAGE THROUGH DIFFICULT YEARS, CURRENT
PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND OF HIGH COST OF LIVING.
TASS ARTICLE IMPLIES THAT CAMPAIGN RHETORIC ON SOLUTION OF
U.S. SOCIAL PROBLEMS USUALLY REMAINS RHETORIC. ARTICLE CONCLUDES
BY CITING PRESIDENT ON U.S. ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE BY COOPERATING
WITH SOVIET UNION "NOT ONLY IN SOLVING OUR NUMEROUS CONFLICTS
BUT IN CREATING SUCH A PEACE WHERE NUCLEAR ARMS ARE BROUGHT UNDER
CONTROL."

--KZ HAS TWO WASHINGTON TASS ARTICLES-- ONE ON PENTAGON PLANS
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ICBM SYSTEM -- "M-X"; OTHER
ARTICLE DESCRIBES TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND NATO
SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS IN WHICH LATTER EXPRESSES
PLEASURE OVER U.S.-SPANISH MILITARY TIES AS WELL AS
PARTICULAR SATISFACTION AT MUFFLING OF THOSE WHO
DEMANDED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM WESTERN EUROPE.
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